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THE KIND ASSURANCE

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"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."—John xiv: 18.

READER, are you a Christian? If so, this exceeding precious promise belongs to you as much as to Peter, James, or John.

We often look forward, and fear that we shall be left as orphans, or comfortless; this is natural, because we are depraved, and have an unbelieving heart; but it is quite unscriptural; our heavenly Father can not forsake us, for His word is faithful; our dear Savior can not leave us comfortless, His love is too tender, and His sympathy too deep. He will come to us, He must be with His people, He can not fulfill His offices without, He can not satisfy His loving heart without. From eternity He was looking forward with holy desire for the opportunity; and now he has it, He will not neglect it.

Our comforts are the gifts of Jesus. Our spiritual comforts flow from His presence, prove His love, and are the fulfilment of His promise. We often grieve Him by our unbelief and hardness of heart, and so forfeit our comforts; but though they are withheld for a time, He will restore them again, when repentance and faith are exercised anew.

My brother, view Jesus as the source of all comfort to His people; He is the consolation of Israel. His presence fills us with joy and peace. If He hide His face we are troubled; if He smile and speak a cheering word we are happy, and all is well. His presence and His comforts generally go together, but He is sometimes present to support, lead, and guide us, when He does not see good to comfort us. Yea, He sometimes comes to reprove us, and He is more especially present when we are humbled for sin, grieve over our folly, and mourn on account of having dishonored His name. He withholds the light of his countenance sometimes to prevent sin, or instruct us in some important truth. There are some things which we can not well learn while He manifests Himself, and fills us with joy; as our own weakness, absolute dependence, and the

value of His presence. But, however dark our frame, or gloomy our experience may be at any time, we may calculate upon returning comfort with certainty, for He will visit us again, and our hearts shall rejoice. He will not leave us comfortless, He will come to us.

The promise is plain, exceedingly so; it is in full force, and means now just what it did when Jesus gave it: and He is the same, as tender, as loving, as full of pity as He was when about to leave His disciples, and go unto his Father. This should be firmly believed, for whatever may change, Jesus or His word can not possibly change; it should be pleaded at His throne, in darkness, sorrow, or distress; we should plead with Him to remember and make good the sweet promise of His grace; it should be firmly trusted, for though heaven and earth may pass away, this word of Jesus shall never pass away. The Lord's children never can be orphans; their Father lives, and while He lives, He loves; and while He loves, He will never leave them, nor forsake them. Their home remains, they are traveling to it; and though they may be exposed to storms, and be tried by rough roads while below, their home, and the presence of Jesus there,

will infinitely more than make up for all. Their hope is imperishable, produced by the Holy Spirit, founded on the oath and promise of an unchangeable God, fixed upon revealed realities, supported by Christ formed within them; it is immortal; it may be tried, but destroyed it can not be; it will outlive every trial, outide every storm, and conduct its possessor to the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Jesus also will visit us during our journey, and at the end come and receive us unto Himself.

“Why should the children of a King
Go mourning all their days?
Great Comforter, descend and bring
Some tokens of thy grace.

“Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer’s blood;
And bear Thy witness with my heart,
That I am born of God.”